

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 AGR-20

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02

SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /187 W

----- 103396

R 111030Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5783

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5783

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF SEIZED OPIUM FOR MEDICAL REQUIRE-  
MENTS: ADHANISTAN

REF: A) KABUL 3249 (NOTAL); B) STATE 114192 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL PURCHASE AFGHAN SEIZED OPIUM  
STILL NOT RPT NOT RESOLVED. US FIRM NOW BEING ASKED SUBMIT  
NEW SEALED BID ON SEIZED OPIUM FOLLOWING REPORTED SOVIET OFFER  
PURCHASE ALL RPT ALL SEIZED OPIUM OVER FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.  
SEALED BID PROCEDURE CURRENTLY BEING HANDLED BY INTER-MINIST-  
ERIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY GOA MINCOMMERCE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF ACCOMPANIED BY VISITING MALLINCKRODT CHEMICAL WORKS  
REP CALLED ON GOA PRESIDENT CUSTOMS DEPT, MIN/FINANCE DR.  
SARZAMIN KAIMUR WHO RETURNED RECENTLY FROM OFFICIALLY SPON-  
SORED TRIP TO US AND EUROPE. IN COURSE DISCUSSION, MALLINCKRODT  
INQUIRED RE STATUS SEALED BID OFFERS PURCHASE SEIZED OPIUM  
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MENTIONED REFTELS. KAIMUR CALLED IN CUSTOMS ASSISTANT WHO STATED

AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE WAS NOW 12 RPT 12 TONS. KAIMUR OPINED IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR MALLINCKRODT TO SUBMIT ANOTHER BID SINCE HE UNDERSTOOD SOVIETS HAVE SUBMITTED BID OFFER WHICH WAS BEING CONSIDERED BY AFGHAN AUTHORITIES. ACCORDING KAIMUR, SEALED BID PROCEDURE NOW BEING HANDLED BY GOA INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY MIMCOMMERCE. ALL RPT ALL BIDS SHOULD BE SENT TO MINCOMMERCE FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH MINCOMMERCE OFFICIALS. EMBOFF LEARNED MINCOMMERCE WAS SENDING COMMERCIAL TELEGRAM TO MALLINCKRODT SUGGESTING THEY SUBMIT NEW BID OFFER FOR SEIZED OPIUM WITH MORPHINE CONTENT RANGING FROM TWO TO TEN PERCENT. MINCOMMERCE OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT GOA HAD RECEIVED OFFER FROM SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE ALL RPT ALL SEIZED OPIUM OVER FIVE-YEAR PERIOD BUT THAT OFFER WAS LOW AND PROBABLY WOULD BE REJECTED.

4. MINCOMMERCE OFFICIAL SAID GOA HAS RECEIVED SOVIET GOVERNMENT LAB ANALYSIS REPORT OF SEIZED OPIUM INDICATING IT HAS MORPHINE CONTENT OF TEN RPT TEN PERCENT.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY GOA HANDLING OF SEALED BID PROCEDURE AND INTEND MAKE INQUIRIES OF MINCOMMERCE JALALLAR ON HIS RETURN. JALALLAR CURRENTLY VISITING BULGARIA AND ALGERIA ON OFFICIAL MISSION. AFGHAN GOVERNMENT OBVIOUSLY WANTS RECEIVE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PRICE FOR SEIZED OPIUM BUT WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT WE PROTECT U.S. FIRMS WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN PREVIOUSLY-STATED GOA DECISION PLACE ALL SUCH PURCHASES ABOVE BOARD VIA SEALED BID SYSTEM. END COMMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** SNAR, AF, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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